

CLAIBORNE PELL  
RHODE ISLAND

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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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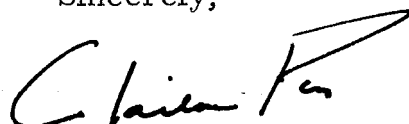
August 7, 1963

The Honorable John A. McCone  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

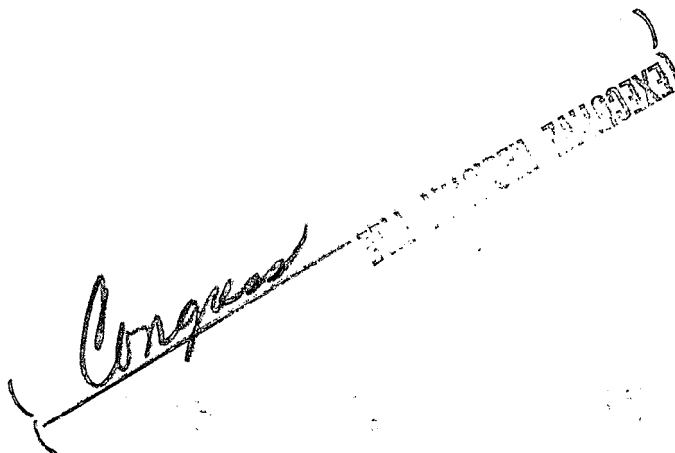
Dear Mr. McCone:

Because our policy throughout the world is to support democratic insurgency, not just to promote counter insurgency, I thought you might be interested in the enclosed statement.

Sincerely,

  
Claiborne Pell

Enclosure



# CLAIBORNE PELL

(D -R. I.)



For further information please contact  
Ray Nelson, Administrative Assistant  
to Senator Pell, at Capitol 4-3121,  
Extension 4643, or at home, 656-6118.

FOR RELEASE: 6:00 p.m., August 8, 1963

## STATEMENT BY SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE

Mr. President:

I should like to call the attention of the Senate to a semantic skirmish in the battle of words and labels which is such an important part of the Cold War. It is a skirmish, too, which we are completely losing.

I speak of our choice of the phrase "counter insurgency" whereby we damage our own cause and unwittingly aid our enemies.

Our policy is not to counter insurgency, but to support democratic insurgency.

In many parts of the world today, we are encouraging and conducting so-called "counter insurgency" operations. Here in Washington we speak of "counter insurgency" measures and "counter insurgency" planning, and we refer to "counter insurgency" as a desirable and necessary form of activity.

We all realize that this form of activity, the combating by unorthodox means of various Communist regimes and Communist-sponsored guerrilla activity, is both a necessary and a desirable policy. However, when we use the phrase "counter insurgency" to describe these operations, I believe we damage the image the world should have of our nation and our purpose. By our very use of this phrase, our Nation indicates our opposition to "insurgency" or "insurgent activities. Surely this is not the image we wish to project in the developing nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Actually, when the objectives of insurgents in

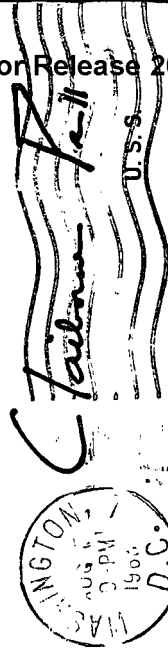
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any part of the world are freedom, liberty, or independence our policy cannot be described as one of "counter insurgency." Rather, it is just the opposite--we support this type of "democratic insurgency."

To be more personal for a moment, let us elected politicians look at ourselves. Many of us won our first election as "insurgents"! Almost every free nation was originally born in insurgency, and our United States was no exception.

In our current battle for the minds of men, it seems to me that such distinctions are truly important. We must take care to tell the world clearly and concisely just what we stand for and just what we are trying to do. In this instance, I believe that we are being careless and unclear in our choice of words. In fact, we are saying just the opposite of what we mean. By doing this, our motives can easily be distorted in the minds of people who should be our friends. It seems to me, therefore, that it's time for a semantic shift. Our cause will be stronger for it.

Accordingly, I urge that steps be taken within the Executive branch of the Government to substitute for the negative and inappropriate phrase "counter insurgency" a positive term more genuinely descriptive of our actions and attitudes. Such a positive term would be "democratic insurgency." Or, we could speak of "internal defense" or the encouraging of "counter guerrilla" or "freedom fighting" activities.



United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Honorable John A. McCone  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.